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IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL

Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)

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LESSON FOR DECEMBER 17

JESUS AMONG FRIENDS AND FOES

LESSON TEXT—Luke 10:38-42; 11:14-54.

GOLDEN TEXT—Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.—John 15:14.

REFERENCE MATERIAL—Luke 2:34, 35.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Jesus in the Home of Friends.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Jesus Among Friends and Foes.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Friends and Enemies of Jesus.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Christ's Methods of Dealing With People.

1. Jesus in the Home of Friends (Luke 10:38-42).

There is no place where true character is so clearly revealed as at home.

1. His Reception (v. 38). Martha was the head of the home, therefore she received him. It would be a fine thing if all homes were open to receive Jesus.

2. Mary Sitting at Jesus' Feet (v. 39). She, of fine spiritual discernment, knew that sitting at the Lord's feet and hearing His Word was that which would please Him most. Mary's way of entertaining Jesus was more acceptable to Him than that of Martha.

3. Martha Cumbered About Much Serving (v. 40). Both sisters loved the Lord. It would be impossible to say which loved the more; but Martha was bent on providing a fine meal for Him. She was trying to do so many things that she was on the verge of distraction. This had so completely got on her nerves that she found fault with Jesus for permitting Mary to leave the kitchen to listen to His teaching. Not only did she criticize her sister and Jesus, but she assumed the authority to command Him to send Mary back to the kitchen to help.

4. Jesus' Answer (vv. 41, 42. (1) Rebuked Martha (v. 41). He did this tenderly, for He knew that she loved Him sincerely. (2) Defends Mary (v. 42). He declared that but one thing was needful, and that Mary had chosen that good part which could not be taken away from her. The one thing needful is a heart for the Lord. Those who have chosen this good part can never be robbed of it.

II. Jesus Among Foes (11:14-23; 29-32; 37-54).

1. Charged With Being in League With the Devil (vv. 14-23). Being unwilling to receive Him as the Son of God, and yet unable to account for His mighty works, they declared He was casting out demons through Beelzebub, the chief of demons. Jesus exposed the fallacy of their reasoning by showing that in that case Satan would be arrayed against himself, and therefore would destroy his own kingdom.

2. Refused to Believe His Miracles (vv. 29-32). They asked for a sign, to which He replied that they would have a sign from heaven in His death and resurrection. He reminded them, however, that their request showed unbelief surpassing that of the heathen queen of the South, and the wicked people of Nineveh.

3. Wickedness Denounced (vv. 37-54). He pronounced six woes upon those who were opposing Him and seeking His destruction; three upon the Pharisees and thereupon the lawyers. Religion with these people had degenerated into matters of form and ritual.

(1) The Pharisees (vv. 37-41). These He denounced for (a) punctiliously observing some minute rites and at the same time breaking the Ten Commandments. They carefully tithed the small herbs of the garden while practicing injustice to their fellowmen and withholding love from God. He pointed out to them the folly of attending to these external acts while the heart was filled with wickedness. (b) Desiring public recognition (v. 43). This is a common sin today. Love for titles of respect and position of prominence is a very common sin. (c) For feigning humility (v. 44). He compares their hypocrisy to graves which are on a level with the ground and may be stepped upon unconsciously by someone, and thus defiled. We can avoid those who make their vanity known by boasting, but some are filled with this same wickedness who do not thus make it known.

(2) The Lawyers (vv. 45-54). Jesus' strictures on the hypocritical Pharisees aroused the lawyers, one of whom indignantly declared: "You are insulting us also." In replying to this Christ pronounced three woes upon them; (a) for placing burdensome requirements upon the people to which they themselves would not sumbit (v. 46). (b) For the murder of God's prophets (vv. 47-51). He showed that their attitude toward Him was the same that was shown to the prophets by their fathers. Their diabolical murdering was done in the name of religion. Jesus declares that their guilt was the same as that of their fathers and that their generation would be held responsible for all that the fathers had done. (c) For keeping back the knowledge of God by false interpretation of the Scriptures (vv. 52-54). There is no wickedness perhaps so great as that of supposed teachers of God's Word who keep its precious truths from the people by perverting its meaning.

Saul Begins Prophesying.

And it came to pass, when all that knew him beforetime saw that, behold, he prophesied among the prophets, then the people said one to another, What is this that is come into the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?—I Samuel 10:11.

The Merciful and the Upright.

With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful, and with the upright man, thou wilt shew thyself upright.—II Samuel 22:26.

Seek Ye.

But seek ye first the kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.—Matthew 6:33.

Reaping Iniquity.

Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies.—Hosea 10:13.

Final Permanence.

Character attains final permanence, and final permanence can come but once.—Joseph Cook.

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PAGES U. S. TO CANCEL DEBTS

Premier Bonar Law Paints Gloomy Picture

RETURN TO BALFOUR NOTE

Many Near End—If It Recovers, Says Law, It Will Be Better Off Than England.

London.—Premier Bonar Law in an important statement in the House of Commons declared frankly for the policy of the Balfour note, which advocated an adjustment of inter-Allied debts by an all-round cancellation, England on her part surrendering her claims of reparations to be paid by Germany. Thus the Prime Minister indicated that the new Government, despite its first delaration that the Balfour note no longer existed so far as the present British Government was concerned, and that it would not consider itself bound by it, feels impelled to the same policy as the previous government.

The remainder of Mr. Bonar Law's speech was clearly addressed to both France and the United States—to France, a plea for moderation in dealing with Germany on the ground that the country is already on the verge of collapse; to America, a call for help and co-operation in settling the difficult problems of reparations and the Allied debts.

Another important phase of his speech was the dark picture drawn of England's economic and industrial future. Should the much hoped-for improvement in trade not materialize, the Prime Minister showed the utter anxiety that there should be no misunderstanding British feeling to both France and the United States, and said that it was only England's difficult position he was making known. England was burdened with heavy taxation, which was a clog to industrial enterprise, resulting in the unemployment—a problem made it necessary first that there be no military occupation of German territory, which would still further handicap European trade with reproducing results in cash, and, secondly, compelled him frankly to face the fact that England was unable to pay the American debt if she received nothing from Europe.

Among points in the speech were the fairness of the view that before England had made sacrifices to no other way she should be expected to pay her debts, while others who had made no such sacrifices escaped, the warning that too sudden decline in Germany might produce all the evils of unemployment which other countries are already facing.

"Germany ever does recover," he said, "she will be in a far better position to pay these indemnities than she would be to pay our debt to America. That is a fact."

Pointing out that the result of the terrible misfortune for Germany, namely, the destruction of her middle class, has been that Germany's indebt was wiped out, the Premier said: "If the Germans ever do recover they will be free from that terrible burden of internal debt that falls on us.

"We are sure to recover some day," he continued, "and the sole problem for consideration is how we can get a reasonable debt paid whilst doing the least possible injury to the rest of the world and to Germany."

The subsequent debate the most worthy contribution was by James Ramsay MacDonald, the Labor leader. David Lloyd George also spoke, but confined himself to brief expression of complete approval of Mr. Bonar Law's

SEVEN MEN KILLED OR HURT.

Explosion Wrecks Sugar Mill At Camaguey, Cuba.

Habana. — One hundred workmen were killed or injured in a boiler explosion which wrecked the Estrella Sugar Mill, near Camaguey. Thirteen bodies had been recovered up to 7 o'clock and 40 injured persons were being cared for in Camaguey. Most of the victims are Spaniards.

LLOYD GEORGE AGAIN HEADS RED CROSS.

Cabinet Also Reappoints Five Members Of Central Committee.

Washington.—John Barton Payne was reappointed by President Harding chairman of the American Red Cross for another year. Mr. Harding announced the appointment as president of the chief organization. The five members of the organization's central committee also were reappointed.

MORE OF WORLD'S GOLD IN U. S.

Uncle Sam Now Has Nearly $4,000,000,000 In His Vaults.

Washington.—The New Year will find the United States possessor of nearly 40 per cent. of the world's entire gold supply, Treasury officials said. Uncle Sam's cached in his vaults nearly $4,000,000,000. The world's entire supply of gold is about $8,000,000,000.

CREDITS FREE MISSIONARY.

Bandit Outlaws Still Hold Three Other Americans.

Washington.—Anton Lundeen, of Newcastle, Wyo., a missionary who was kidnapped by bandits in Honan province October 13 last, has been released. Three other Americans are still being held captive and the diplomatic corps here has appointed a commission which will start for Horan province Thursday to negotiate their release.

INTERVENTION BY UNITED STATES EXPECTED.

London Papers Make Much Of Washington News.

London.—Advices from Washington intimating that the United States may participate more actively in European affairs next year, particularly in regard to reparations, were conspicuously displayed on the first pages of London newspapers Thursday. Newspapers expressed the opinion editorially that "President Harding will intervene."

News that J. P. Morgan, who recently returned to the United States from Europe, had conferred at the State Department in Washington strengthened the belief here that America is preparing to modify her policy of isolation.

NEW TURK DEMAND LEADS TO CLASH

Ismet Insists on Exchange of Greeks For Turks

LORD CURZON'S HOT REPLY

Declares That The Minorities Must Remain In Both Countries—Ismet Appeals To History.

Lausanne.—Ismet Pasha, head of the Turkish delegation, dashed the hopes of the Near Eastern Conference for a speedy and satisfactory settlement for the protection of minorities in Turkey when in an address at the afternoon session he insisted upon an exchange of the Greek populations in Anatolia for the Turks in Macedonia. He demanded exclusion of all foreign interference in Turkey, which he said would protect the remaining minorities, as the Turks had always been able to get along with other nationals when they kept out of politics and were not stirred up by outside influences.

Ismet declared that Turkey would not accept Lord Curzon's proposal to have the League of Nations administer the affairs of the minorities, as that would mean that the foreign Powers would continue their interference in Turkish affairs and encourage the minorities to appeal to the League of Nations. This plan, he asserted, would result in the exploitation of minorities for political ends under "the lying cloak of humanitarianism."

The Turkish chief delegates reviewed the entire history of Turkey from the time of the conquest of Constantinople. The Turks, he said, had lived peacefully with the Greeks and the Armenians have been responsible for their difficulties in Turkey; they were fired by the example of other Greeks, the Bulgars and Serbs to imitate them in the hope of upsetting the Turkish Government." According to Ismet there are now no minorities in Turkey which can claim the right to belong to any other nations, thus disposing of the Armenian claim for a national home in Turkey.

Lord Curzon replied in a spirited manner to Ismet, saying it was the first time the conference had seen the Turkish delegate as a historian, and had always thought of him before as a soldier and a diplomat. The British Secretary for Foreign Affairs said the conference was dealing with the affairs of peoples in the greatest distress and must find a solution for the problem of the miserable refugees and without regard for ancient history, and must frame a treaty which would protect these unhappy people.

BAN HIGH SCHOOL BOOZE.

Officials Say Of Drinking And Parties, One Must Cease.

Hornell, N. Y.—Either liquor or high school class parties must go.

That is the edict of Principal Albert Tuttle, of Hornell High School. The ultimatum of Professor Tuttle follows the educational authorities' discovery that at a recent high school junior-senior class party not a few of the youths indulged in too much illicit booze.

The prevalence of drinking among local boys and girls is claimed to be alarming and has resulted in the closing of one public hall.

SEATS ON EXCHANGE COSTLY.

$100,000 Is Highest Price Paid In New York Market.

New York.—Of 72 seats on the New York Stock Exchange sold to date this year the highest-priced was $100,000 and the lowest $86,000, officials of the Exchange disclosed. Fifty-seven of the seats brought a total of $3,374,000, the remaining 15 having been nominal transfer.

BUMPER WINE HARVEST.

Paris.—The largest wine harvest since 1875 has been registered in France this year. The yield is 68,000,000 hectolitres. In 1875 the total was 83,000,000, hectolitres. When the results of the wine harvest in Algiers and Tunis are added to that of France the total wine yield for this year will reach 76,000,000 hectolitres. Besides all this, it is estimated that there are 9,000,000 hectolitres of wine stocks on hand.

PREMIERS LOOK TO UNITED STATES

French Eager to Rush Troops To Ruhr Valley

ENGLAND TO KEEP HANDS OFF

Adjournment Of Premier's Parley Regarded As Only Postponement Of Inevitable Break Between Great Britain And France.

Washington. — Dispatches from Paris indicate that the French are convinced that the breakup of the Premiers' Conference leaves no other alternative than the immediate occupation of the Ruhr Valley by French troops.

Leading Paris newspapers are demanding action and there seems to be a general feeling of satisfaction that the suspense due to prolonged negotiations is now over and decisive action is to be taken.

British and Italian fears that Ruhr occupation will entail great expenditures are not shared in France, where the experiment in the Saar Valley has shown increased production and better prices.

In London, representatives of the Allied nations are looking to the United States to prevent a definite break between England and France following the collapse of the Premiers' Conference.

Some observers believe the failure of the parley will bring about the fall of Poincare, while others think his refusal to bow to the British will strengthen him at home.

Bonar Law's speech in the House of Commons defining the British position will be followed by an attack by Lloyd George, who is said to be chuckling because the new Premier's "tranquillity" policy has been unable to bring the French into line.

London.—The Allied Powers seem to be looking to the United States as a last hope of preventing a definite break in the Entente over reparations following upon the collapse of the London reparations conference. Despite official explanations and the decision to continue the discussions in Paris, the Allied premiers after three days' conversation find themselves in what appears to be complete disagreement over reparations. Adjournment to January in an effort to delay a little longer the apparently inevitable split in Allied unity.

M. Poincare returned to Paris with the reparations problems as far from even a temporary settlement as when he arrived on Friday evening, although his determination to demand partial occupation of the Ruhr for customs collections was the chief contribution to the failure of the present negotiations.

There are many well-informed French observers who believe that France will never go this far in exacting guarantees and, if a decision is eventually taken to act alone, such action to be confined to the administration of the Rhineland, it is regarded as not unlikely that Great Britain will make one great generous offer to France before adopting a policy of isolation.

This, it is thought, may take the form of offering to cancel the French debt, provided France accepts reasonable indemnity and gives up the idea of measures of force. It is thought possible in French quarters that the British might approach President Harding's Administration between now and January with the purpose of ascertaining if the United States would be willing to make possible European settlement of reparations by cancellation of the French debt or at least entering a conference in which such a step would be considered.

MILES OF CLOTH FOR RUSSIA.

A. R. A. Ships Enough To Clothe 80,000 Persons.

New York.—More than 1,500 miles of cloth were shipped to Russia by the American Relief Administration. Also almost 4,000,000 buttons, which are said to be like so many diamonds to women there, were sent. The clothing already sent is enough to clothe 80,000 adults, or 160,000 children.

23 KILLED BY QUAKES.

Inhabitants Of Kyshu Flee As The Shocks Continue.

Tokio.—Twenty-three persons were killed and from 20 to 30 were injured in the earthquake on the Island of Kyshu, said a dispatch from there. The shocks continue. Mount Unzen, a volcano on Kyshu Island, is in violent eruption and the nearby inhabitants are fleeing.

RICH BOOTLEGGER TO "PEN".

New York. — Edward Donegan, Brooklyn bootlegger who claims to have made $1,000,000 selling liquor, was taken to the Atlanta Federal penitentiary to begin serving 10 years for conspiracy and grand larceny. He was fined $65,000. Donegan was convicted of plotting to steal Government documents that would have helped him in his bootlegging.

$100,000 FEE FOR RECEIVER.

New York Lawyer Rewarded For Work For Power Company.

New York.—Federal Judge Edwin L. Garvin has signed an order giving Attorney John J. Kuhn, of Great Neck, L. I., $100,000 on account as receiver of the Richmond Light and Power Company. The award places Mr. Kuhn among the big receivers of Greater New York. Mr. Kuhn said that he has placed the company on a paying basis.

LEGION REJECTS WINE AND BEER BONUS

Leaders Fear Prohibition Issue Would Block Grant.

Washington.—The American Legion has definitely decided to frown upon all plans for linking a beer-and-light-wines act to the new soldiers' bonus bill, Legion officials announced. This decision was reached at a conference here which included the new national commander, Alvin Owsley; the former commander and several State leaders. The Legion men were unqualifiedly opposed to all rum revenue provisions, it was said, through fear that raising the prohibition issue would jeopardize passage of the bonus by the present Congress.

PLAN TO BUILD GREAT NAVIES

House Naval Committee Serves Notice on Powers

BIG PROGRAM OFFERED

Seek New Parley—Washington Naval Armament Pact Said To Have Fallen Short Of Purpose.

Washington.—Blunt notice that the United States cannot avoid a new naval program in swift cruisers and fleet submarines unless treaty limitations are extended to such craft was served by the House Appropriations Committee in reporting the $293,806,538 Naval Appropriation bill. A six-line provision placed in the bill by the committee requested President Harding to negotiate with Great Britain, France, Japan and Italy for such an extension of the treaty, limitation of aircraft to be included.

The committee report said large cruiser and submarine programs were planned abroad, adding:

"In other words, competition is on again in the single direction to which the unratified agreement (the Washington Naval Treaty) does not extend, and if it be allowed to go on unchecked, the purse strings again must be relaxed and this Government, like all others, will be constrained to launch a new program to the extent necessary to keep us at least abreast of any of the other powers."

President Harding was not consulted by the committee with relation to its conference request. The project for negotiations apparently came as a surprise, even to Naval officials. It was originated by Chairman Kelley of the Naval Appropriations Sub-Committee.

The chief reason prompting Mr. Kelley to propose a new naval conference was understood to have been the light-cruiser program recommended by the Navy General Board. No mention of this is included in the published copies of committee hearings on the bill. The program urged, however, as necessary to keep the United States Navy on a parity with other navies in cruisers, included 16 new light cruisers within the 10,000-ton-size limitation of the Washington treaty and to cost $168,000,000.

The committee also eliminated from its published hearings testimony of Naval Intelligence officers on the program of construction abroad. Presumably it was this information and the recommendations as to new construction made by the General Board which prompted the attempt to check post-treaty competitive building through diplomatic negotiations.

Administration officials, who were closest to the Washington Arms Conference deliberations, expressed the view that there appeared little likelihood of success for new negotiations to limit in accordance with the "5-5-3" or some other ratio the size of cruiser and submarine fleets. The Conference, it was pointed out, in prolonged discussions had found no basis of agreement possible on these points or as to fighting aircraft. The French position at the Conference in opposition to limiting submarine fleets, it was added, brought a specific reservation by British delegates of the right to build anti-submarine craft such as light cruisers and destroyers without restriction save as to the maximum size of cruisers, 10,000 tons, and limitation of the maximum size of guns they could carry to 8-inch weapons.

LIPTON SAILS FOR HOME

New York.—Sir Thomas Lipton, who has been in America for several weeks sailed for England on the steamship Homeric Saturday and his parting message was "I'm still hoping to lift the cup."

Sir Thomas, who has made several attempts to take the America's cup away from America, asserted he would surely make another try in 1924.

EDITOR FREED OF MURDER.

Durango, Colo.—Red S. Day, editor of the Durango Democrat, was freed of a charge of murder for the killing of William L. Wood, editor of the Durango Herald. A jury returned a verdict of not guilty after deliberating nearly 24 hours.

PITNEY TO RETIRE SOON.

Will Quit Supreme Court About January 1, Daugherty Says.

Washington. — Associate Justice Mahlon Pitney, of the Supreme Court, will retire about January 1, under the provisions of the resolution recently passed by Congress, Attorney-General Daugherty said. President Harding, Daugherty indicated, will not nominate Pitney's successor until the Senate has finally acted on the nomination of Pierce Butler.

Making Things for Christmas

Human Nature vs. the Christmas Spirit

By Mary Graham Bonner

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WE WERE full of the Christmas spirit. We were going to be more kindly, more charitable, more friendly with the whole world. The Christmas spirit had penetrated. We could feel its warm glow. And so—after a glorious Christmas in the old homestead—we were on our way back to the city where lately our work had taken us.

The travel was heavy, of course, and we found ourselves waiting at the end of a long line to get into the dining car. We waited for an hour by our watches. We were exhausted from having stood and from annoyance at the slowness of others and because we were very hungry.

Finally the line grew shorter. Soon our turns would come. But it seemed not. For those who had gone into the dining car at last to eat took time about it even though their absence made the waiting line a shorter one.

At last we were at the head of the line. It had been a long process to work up to this point and we smiled at one another.

"Only a moment now and we'll be eating," we fairly beamed the words.

But again it seemed not so. For those at the tables were eating and eating and eating. They would never finish, it appeared. When they approached the end of their meal and we almost bounded to the nearly-vacant table we discovered they were taking their time over their coffee.

"How selfish people are," we said to each other. "How much they lack the unselfish Christmas spirit. It means nothing to them! They know there is a great line waiting and they don't hurry in the least. Why, just think of the length of time we've waited and there are more to follow us. And yet those people can be as leisurely as though they were in their own homes. It's outrageous, simply outrageous, how utterly selfish people are. And you would think at this time of the year they'd be a little more thoughtful."

And to our exhaustion was added the sorrow we felt in the thoughtlessness of human nature.

And then—the head waiter summoned us to a table. Two persons had at last arisen and at last our turns had actually come!

We sat back and luxuriously perused the menu. Well, we were hungry. We'd have a good meal!

And we began to order.

"And I'm just going to take my time about it, too," I said. "Just because people stand there and glare at us, as though we almost had no right to be eating our meal, isn't going to make me hurry."

"I should say not," said my companion. "We'll take all the time in the world in spite of their ugly looks!"

It was some time later that we remembered the Christmas spirit we had been so full of before!

"Human nature vs. Christmas spirit," we said sadly to each other.

Dead Broke.

"Are you going to hang up your stockings this Christmas?"

"I am more likely to hang up my watch."

The Deaf Ear That Heard

By Christopher G. Hazard

(©, 1922, Western Newspaper Union.)

MRS. BEGONE was not giving any thing that Christmas. The announcement of her limited purposes had sent a chill through the house that froze the hopes of several young people. A shower of one-cent cards registering good wishes that were rather cheap, had gone out. The bag of candy for the eager, but insincere well-wishers that ring Christmas bells year by year had not been provided. The outlook was not promising.

Besides, Mrs. Begone was very deaf in one ear and could, upon occasion be very deaf in two ears. It was difficult to make her hear anything that she didn't want to hear. There wasn't much chance for persuasive argument. She could be as deaf as an adder, when she had concluded not to be a multiplier.

Nevertheless, Susy did not despair; choosing a favorable after dinner time she advanced to the attack with a well prepared Christmas appeal which was flavored with anticipations.

But as soon as the old lady heard the word "Christmas" she became wholly unable to hear more. Susy continued from behind her back, got down on her knees, peered up from the floor, peeped up through her fingers, without effect. Finally, remarking in an aside, "Wouldn't she wear you out?" the child was about to give up, when she was encouraged by the beginning of a smile that seemed to promise to spread all over Mrs. Begone's countenance. This hint of success was reflected in a broader smile upon the child's face that in turn found registry upon the face of the other and certified that the battle was won.

It was a costly smile for Mrs. Begone; six very empty stockings asked for contributions the next evening, but I dare say that she was happier in filling them than she would have been if her deafness had not been cured. She was even happier than the children, and that is saying a good deal. She was so happy that she changed an old saying in her mind and, instead of "True happiness, if understood, consists alone in being good," she made it "True happiness, if understood, consists alone in doing good."

IT'S DIFFERENT NOW.

Lady: I suppose you wish Christmas came several times a year.

Willie: I used to till I got engaged to Millie Nextdoor, but it's different now.

Sad and Solemn Thoughts.

"Even at Christmas, when all the world is gay and glad," said the grey-bearded philosopher, "there come to a man sad and solemn thoughts."

"Yes," agreed the young man who had no watch on the end of his chain, "and the saddest and most solemn are those that come to a fellow when he reads of the marriage of a girl to whom last Christmas he gave a diamond ring on which he is still paying installments."

THE FAILING FLASH

THERE was a pattering of feet through the hall and a small spot of light approached the big fireplace. A long and bulbous stocking was clasped to a beating heart and an eager little face was half revealed as it turned bedward again in the faint glimmer. Then a sudden darkness overwhelmed the small pilgrim, and, as she lost her way and bumped into a chair, the stuffed Christmas stocking fell to the floor with a bang. The wail that followed brought father down stairs in a hurry and comfort to the lost traveler. "What is the matter, baby, what are you doing here?" said the rescuer. "The 'lectricity fell out," was the tearful answer.

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A TUNE for a PENNY

by Martha B. Thomas

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IS IT any wonder that the man with the tin whistle felt a trifle discouraged? Is it any wonder when the pavements were so cold, the wind so keen and his coat so thin? It seemed, on that shivery Christmas Eve, as if everything was trying to make life as dreary as possible, instead of as merry. It would not even snow. A fine, sharp drizzle swept in under the bridge where the man with the tin whistle stood, and managed to get inside the tops of his boots and his collar and up his coatsleeves; it was very disappointing indeed.

Holiday season was usually a jolly one for pennies. Either people had a great deal more at that time, or they were bent on getting rid of those they had. The man with the tin whistle kept a little cup that possessed a most remarkable appetite for coppers! It could hold as many pennies at one gulp as a boy eating raisins out of a plum pudding; and that's saying a great deal! But today the little cup was almost empty. Nobody had time to stop and dig around in pockets for loose coins; it was too cold, and their gloves bothered and they wanted to get home, where their children were waiting to clap their hands over the packages from the stores. The man with the tin whistle wanted to get home, too. He did not have any children waiting for him, and they would have had no bundles to squeal over if he did, but there was a funny, raggedy dog that always expected something, and danced around in a dizzy, delightful way that was very cheerful. But how could the man with the tin whistle go home when his tunes brought him nothing but numb fingers and a feeling in his feet as if they had turned to wood?

However, he screwed up his mouth, took a long breath, pretended that pennies were making his little cup ring like sleigh bells and played the gayest little tune you ever heard! It laughed its way up the windy stairs into the station; it chuckled along the cold stones on the gray wall; it capered about the pavement like an elf doing a polka and was altogether the merriest piece of business in that particular spot that had happened for years. The man with the tin whistle was thinking about Ravelings, his dog at home, and I'm convinced it put something into his tune that was irresistible. For let me tell you! In two minutes who should come running down the steps in front of him but a young lady with the pinkest cheeks and the laughingest eyes he had ever seen. She was smiling at him as though she had known him all her life.

"I love that tune!" she said. "It always make me want to skip my feet. You can't think how nice it is to hear it this miserable night. Thank you!" And the little cup had the surprising mouthful of a quarter.

"There's supper for me and Ravelings," thought the man with the tin whistle, as he tipped his hat.

And before he could decide whether it would be hot dogs or soup, somebody else was smiling at him. This time it was a quiet man with gray hair.

"I always look for you when I come down the stairs," said the man, "and I like to hear those rollicking little tunes you play. It cheers a man up after a long day's work. Merry Christmas!" And, if you'll believe me, the quiet man with the gray hair tossed in half a dollar! The little tin cup rattled importantly and gave every indication of being ready for anything after this.

On went the frolicking melody. On came the pennies. The man with the tin whistle almost forgot how cold his feet were and that the rain had succeeded in making his stockings very wet and wretched. It really must have been the tune, for everybody had a coin and a bit of greeting. So he played and played and played. He thought his luck would change if he changed the tune, and he very nearly blew the breath out of him, keeping the notes dancing about in that dismal place. Ravelings and he were going to have the finest supper in all Christendom, if whistling could do it.

Some people threw in pennies, and some threw in dimes, and an occasional one dropped a quarter; but the best surprise of all came at the last (which is the way it should be, especially on Christmas Eve).

The man with the tin whistle was just about to take it away from his mouth and start home when a little, old lady, with white hair, stopped in front of him. Her eyes twinkled like frosty stars and there was something about her that made one think of a chickadee. Perhaps it was her bright, quick eyes, or maybe the way she put her head on one side and looked so exceedingly wise and happy. The man with the tin whistle thought she was the nicest old lady he had ever seen. And this was before she had said a word.

"Somebody," chirped the old lady (her voice was like a chickadee's, too, only it did not say what a chickadee does), "Somebody who went through here last year about this time has sent you a present. That somebody was very discouraged over a lot of things. And the day was discouraging, too, just like this. But you were playing away here for all you were worth, just as if the sun were shining and your feet were warm as toast. The tune was the same one you are tootling now. And that somebody decided that if you could stand and whistle a jolly air in all the cold and wet and drizzle, that it was time to make himself brace up and do something. And he did." The old lady twinkled harder than ever. The man with the tin whistle wondered what in the world she was going to say next. But she did not say any thing for a minute. She whipped out a pocketbook, snapped open the top took out a small, folded piece of paper and handed it to the man with the tin whistle. Then she snapped her pocketbook together, put it in her bag, perked her head on one side and chirped, "Merry Christmas! The man was my son." And she was gone before you could say Jack Robinson!

Ravelings and his master had a super worth talking about that night, I can tell you! For what do you suppose that folded bit of paper was? A new, rattling ten-dollar bill! Yes, sir! And Ravelings will remember that particular Christmas Eve as long as he can wag his tail or gnaw a bone. And the man with the tin whistle declared he would never get discouraged again, no matter how dreadful the weather was. Ravelings approved of this determination and ate another chop at once.

And the man with the tin whistle still plays tunes all the way from a penny up to ten dollars!

Hermit Cookies.

One and one-half cupfuls sugar, 3 eggs, 1 cupful of butter or shortening, 3 cupfuls flour, 1 teaspoonful baking powder, 1 teaspoonful salt, 1 teaspoonful cinnamon, 1 teaspoonful allspice, 1 teaspoonful cloves, 1 teaspoonful nutmeg, ½ teaspoonful soda, 1½ cupfuls raisins.

Add sugar and eggs to melted butter. Beat well. Sift flour, baking powder, salt, spices and soda together. Add to batter mixture and mix well. Add plumped raisins. Drop by teaspoon on greased pan and bake in moderate oven until brown, about 20 to 25 minutes. This makes about 36 cookies.

HIS FIRST CHRISTMAS

'Bout Christmas

THE kindling's all cut, and the basement swept,
And everything is where it should be kept.
In lesson's he's most perfected,
Does other things least expected:
That's my Son,
On the run
For his dad,
'Bout Christmas!

I have never to look for coat or hat,
Neither to wonder where's this or that;
My ties hang neatly on the rack,
And my soiled linen's in the sack.
That's my Girl,
She's a pearl
For her dad,
'Bout Christmas!

My slippers I find beside my chair,
Kind attentions for me there—
At times I feel "Almost a King,"
So petted o'er, and everything:
That's my Wife,
Bet your life,
"Dear Old Dad!"
'Bout Christmas!

Woodward Pemberton.

His Christmas Gift.

It is difficult to tell what to give a young man for Christmas. If you can do nice sewing, a silk shirt would prove a most attractive gift, provided that your mother sanctions so expensive a present. A particularly fine pocket knife, bill book, cigarette case, belt buckle, a set of toilet articles in a traveling case, any one of these would be most acceptable to the average young man.—Grit.

His Christmas Gift.

Under most circumstances it would not be in good taste for you to give the young man by whom you are employed a Christmas present. Of course, if you "go in the same crowd" or have known each other for a number of years conditions are slightly different. Should your mother deem it correct for you to give him some slight token, make it rather impersonal.—Grit.

A Thought for the Day.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

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